

THE HUMAN GLUTTON

HE IS THE GREEDIEST OF ALL ANIMAL GORMANDIZERS.

His Ability to Outeat Anything Else in Creation, Size and Opportunities Considered - Appetites of Birds, Beasts and Man.

So commonly are persons of large appetite upbraided as hogs, gluttons or comorants that the question suggests itself, Are these illustrations accurate or must they be accepted by naturalists with the same qualification that belongs to such comparisons as "silly as a goose," "blind as a bat," "timid as a hare" and many others equally popular in every day talk? Those who have studied such creatures know that geese often display undeniable cunning; that bats, though endowed with senses of which we have no equivalent, are not blind and that hares can at times be most pugnacious.

From the general contemplation of whether these and other animals so described are greedy out of the common run, it is but a step to the problem whether any living beast or bird, reptile, fish or insect, is actually greedier than the greediest man, writes T. G. A. also in the Pall Mall Magazine.

Obviously, it is fair in such a comparison to take the case of the man who can and does eat more than his fellows, because such a man, disagreeable though he may be from one standpoint, is undoubtedly more natural than those who, bowing to the verdict of the medical attendant or restrained by considerations of polite behavior, habitually eat less than they could if they were to continue eating until unable to swallow more.

The whole system of feeding in our artificial lives is quite distinct from that adopted in the rest of the animal world and doubtless also from that which was in vogue with the cave men. Able by various devices to procure our food as required, we have appointed certain feeding times, and at these we rigidly take our meals - breakfast, luncheon and dinner.

The wild creatures of nature know no such restraint. The birds in our garden are always pecking at the lawn for worms or at the boughs for berries. The lethargic cattle in the meads when not actually grazing are ruminating, which is grazing over again. The caterpillars on our rose trees, the ants in our storeroom, are always at table. Only civilized man and his domestic animals know the formality of meal-times. And so it is throughout nature with all the four footed and winged creatures.

In considering the appetites and tastes of man and the lower animals it is of importance to distinguish in every class between the gluttons (the word is used conventionally and without prejudice) and the epicures, more happily differentiated by the French as gormandizers and gourmets, the former of which prefer quantity, while the latter are all for the quality of their food.

The human race furnishes innumerable examples of both. Haydn, the composer, would sometimes order six covers for dinner and dine alone. One king of England died after a surfeit of lampreys; the undoing of another was an excessive meal of peaches and new ale.

With these may be ranked Sporegambi, a human hog, who ate 2,000 yards of macaroni at a sitting, and Domery, the Pole, who in the presence of witnesses devoured in one morning fourteen pounds of raw beef and almost the same weight of tallow candles.

These are the gluttons, and if we compare Domery's feat with the daily meal of a full grown working elephant weighing five or six tons - namely, 139 pounds of vegetable food - we find the man the greedier of the two.

The epicures are less repulsive. A former Duke of Portland, who paid high prices for red mullet and ate only the livers, was a benefactor of trade, and the famous Comte de Broussais, who despised mushrooms unless their flavor had been brought out by his uncle treading on them, likewise entertained in princely style and made an art of eating.

Every class of animals has its examples of these two categories. With the epicures we may class the giraffe; with the gormandizers the vulture.

The following selection will approximately serve to illustrate by more or less familiar animal types the two classes:

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| Gluttons. | Epicures. |
| * Mole. | † Giraffe. |
| † Bear. | † Aard wolf. |
| † Bear. | * Ant eater. |
| † Hyena. | * Sperm whale. |
| * Killer whale. | † Manatee. |
| † Hornbill. | * Oprey. |
| † Vulture. | † Humming birds. |
| * Cormorant. | † Gray mullet. |
| † Sea gull. | † Bees and wasps. |
| * Python. | |
| † Sandhopper. | |
| † Burying beetle. | |
| * Shark. | |

It must also be remembered that the man who eats immense meals lacks the excuse of these heavier feeders in the wild life. The mole, the vulture, the python and the shark have excellent reason for eating all they can when a rare chance offers. They may have gone long without a meal, and there is no instinct to tell them when they will get another, whereas a man knows quite well at luncheon that within six or seven hours he will be dining.

The mole, like the little shield tailed snakes of Ceylon, which hunt the same food, has to work like a slave, digging and tunneling and undermining acres of surface soil in its pursuit of the worms, and all this labor must breed a hearty appetite.

The vulture and the python are sluggish in their movements that the latter more particularly, lacking the

bird's taste for carrion, must often be compelled to go hungry for weeks together.

Again, while greediness is a term of reproach among ourselves, it is impossible to glance down the preceding table with the same feeling of distaste, for we know that some of the greediest among these are nature's appointed agents for the resolution of matter, which otherwise would taint the atmosphere and poison mankind, into its harmless elements.

There are other considerations which distinguish the greed of the lower animals from the greed of man. In the case of the great python, for instance, and, in fact, of all serpents, more or less, the teeth are so stunted in the jaw that the reptile is bound to eat all there is and is debarred from leaving off when its victim is only half devoured.

Some years ago one of the largest serpents in the zoological gardens ate another, almost as large, which had previously shared its compartment. Much was said and written at the time of the offensive "greediness" of the creature, but in point of fact its inclination had less to do with the result than its anatomy. If, for instance, the two started on the same rabbit, one seizing the head, the other the stern, the larger would have no choice when they met halfway across but to swallow its smaller fellow.

So specialized are some animals in their food that even the two sexes have different views on the subject of what to have for dinner. As a curious contrast to the collaboration of the male and female hula may be cited that of the male mosquito, which sucks only the juices of plants, while the female must feed on the blood of animals. The nursery rhyme touching the divergent appetites of Jack Sprat and his wife is totally eclipsed by such disagreement.

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

The Fight It Made For Bleeding and Against Quinine.

An important epoch in the career of Dr. Maillot, a distinguished French physician who died in Paris several years ago at the age of ninety-nine years, illustrates the great timidity of medical science in taking up a new method of treatment or abandoning an old one. Dr. Maillot is known to the medical world as the practical introducer into French practice of the use of quinine in the treatment of malarial and other fevers.

In 1832, when the French were conducting a campaign of conquest in Algeria, the mortality among the troops and colonists there was frightful. France was being continually called upon for fresh levies of men and youths to supply this terrible loss, chiefly through fever incidental to the climate and the life the French in Algeria were leading. At that time the practice of bleeding still prevailed. "Bleed them until they are white," was the injunction which Broussais, the medical master of the French, gave to his followers when the condition of the soldiers was reported to him. At Bone, in one year, out of an effective force of 5,500 men, 1,100 died of illness in the hospital.

At this time the effects of sulphate of quinine were known, but few physicians ventured to employ it. Maillot had interested himself in the new remedy, and going to Bone in the medical service of the government he resolved to see if it would not reduce the frightful mortality, which was one to every three and one-half men who entered the hospital. At first he employed the quinine merely as an adjunct to the bleeding. He soon found that bleeding was killing the men and that quinine was saving them. Little by little he left off bleeding, to the great scandal of the medical profession. Exactly in proportion as the bleeding ceased the deaths in the hospital decreased. In two years the deaths fell off from one in three and one-half of all who entered the hospital to one in twenty-six, and finally to one in forty-six.

Maillot, quite naturally enough, grew to be the earnest opponent of bleeding, but he was so ceaselessly vilified by members of the medical profession that he became embittered toward his colleagues. Nearly thirty years passed before Maillot saw the complete triumph of his ideas. Doctors continued to bleed their patients heartily for all manner of ills. But in 1860 Maillot was made commander of the Legion of Honor and chief of the medical staff of the French army, and his influence, with others, in bringing about a virtual revolution in the practice of medicine was fully recognized. - Pearson's Weekly.

A Chinaman's Bath.

Speaking of cleanliness in China Rev. E. J. Hardy says in his "John Chinaman at Home": "Before the Chinese were prohibited from emigrating to the Philippine Islands the fare from Amoy to Manila was for them \$75 first class, \$15 second. Those in the latter class had to take a bath before landing, so in order to escape this terror many used to travel first class who would otherwise have gone second. A whole family of Chinese will make their ablutions one after another in about a pint of unchanged water in the same basin."

Mr. Hardy tells of a conscientious servant: "The principal dish at breakfast was to be deviled turkey. 'Devil very bad word,' he said to himself. 'How can write?' The dish appeared as 'd-d turkey.'"

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